COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the *11th of August 1932.*
27th of Karkadagam 1107.

The House met at half-past eleven of the clock with the President in the Chair. Messrs. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon, K. G. Nayar, S. S. Koder, P. Krishna Menon, K. T. Mathew and P. I. Varugis were absent.

Questions and Answers.

Purchase of articles for the use of the Medical Department.

221. Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) the names of the various Companies, Firms and shops in and outside the State from where articles of Medicine, Instruments, furniture, bedding and clothing, etc., were purchased from 1st February 1932 up to the present date ;

(b) the cost incurred in each of those cases ;

(c) whether all these were purchased as per direct orders placed with them from the Office of the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer ;

(d) whether tenders were called for in each case;

(e) if not, why not ;

(f) if articles have been supplied as per direct orders or by tender the particulars and costs separately of the articles so supplied ;

(g) are there office orders for the purchase of articles supplied through orders of the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer in each case ;

(h) if the answer is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to place them on the Council Table ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—(a), (b) and (c) A statement containing the particulars is placed on the Council Table.

(d) and (e) The cases in which tenders were called for are noted in the statement. As for the rest tenders were not called for because the articles of the same qualities could not be had anywhere else for a lower price.

(f) Vide statement referred to above.

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(g) In most cases

(h) They are placed on the Council Table.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Sir, In the statement placed on the table, I find that some of the articles are purchased by tender and some by direct orders; in other cases, a dash is simply put. Does it mean that it was purchased personally? That dash means that there was no direct order or tender—is that the meaning of it?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—Personally.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Are they paid in cash then and there?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—The bills come to the office and they are paid.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—With regard to sub-division (g), the answer is 'In most cases'. I would like to know why there are no Office Orders with regard to the rest also.

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—As I said the others were personally purchased. In a few instances, I have gone to the place and purchased the articles.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Why are not tenders called for with regard to these raw materials, that is, the raw materials for making bedding and clothing? I find the articles purchased from 6 or 8 different places at short intervals, in some cases by tender and other cases by personal purchase. Considering that it involves large amounts, why tenders should not be called for in all such cases?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—In the matter of bedding and clothing, the different varieties of cloth that are supplied by different people cannot make us conculsive as regards the exact nature. So, I went personally to the place and got some samples and purchased them.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—I find tenders have been called for in some cases. I find Binny & Co., have supplied some materials by tender. I would like to know whether tenders could not have been called for in all these cases?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—As a matter of fact purchases made from Binny & Co. are not by tenders. They were asked to send samples for lowest prices and orders were placed.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—But you have noted as tender.

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—It is not exactly a tender. It is a letter asking them to quote the lowest prices.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—The cases with regard to (d) and (e). I would like to know how that information was got, that it was for the lowest price, without a tender. The same

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